



State of New Jersey

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April 21, 2008

TO: Chief School Administrators
Principals
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Jay Doolan, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Standards and Programs

**SUBJECT: New Jersey Standards Clarification Project: Grades 3-4
Online Project Video**

I am pleased to announce the availability of the grades 3-4 Areas of Focus documents in Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics and Science that complete Phase One of the Standards Clarification Project.

As you may recall, these materials were developed with teams of field-based educators under the guidance of Grant Wiggins, national consultant, through the Office of Academic Standards. The purpose of this two-phase project is to provide materials that convey an understanding of the priorities in the current *New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards* and how to capture those priorities in designing local curriculum and assessments, as well as in managing local instruction across content areas.

Much like the Phase One materials for grades 5-8, materials for grades 3-4 contain guidance framed as **Areas of Focus** for the state assessment. Areas of Focus include exemplars of how cumulative progress indicators may be assessed on state assessments, at the local level and also provide related comments for certain indicators. Since the areas of focus materials are intended to be living documents, additional examples and comments will be added periodically to provide further guidance for teachers. These materials may be accessed at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/>.

In order to support teachers and curriculum coordinators in using Phase One Areas of Focus documents, Grant Wiggins has created a training video that will be available online in May at <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/>. We will advise as soon as the video is posted.

Please inform your staff about the availability of the grades 3-4 standards clarification documents. We hope you find these materials helpful and welcome your feedback. Should you have any questions, please contact Janis Jensen, director, Office of Academic Standards at: janis.jensen@doe.state.nj.us or (609) 984-5322. Thank you.

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c: Members, State Board of Education
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